

Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program
Compliance Agreement for Production Nurseries

Agreement _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** VA **Zip:** _____

Nursery _____

Introduction:

<name of nursery> has been inspected by the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) on <insert date> and found to be apparently free from Boxwood Blight. The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services hereby approves <name of nursery> as a participant in the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program.

Boxwood Blight is caused by the fungus *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* (syn. *C. buxicola*). *Buxus spp.*, *Sarcococca spp.* and *Pachysandra terminalis* are known hosts of Boxwood Blight. The participant agrees to grow species and cultivars of Boxwood Blight host plants according to best management practices designed to prevent the introduction and minimize the risk of spreading Boxwood Blight. This agreement does not preclude the inspection, sampling, and testing of plants by the destination State Department of Agriculture or similar authority and rejection as a result of any positive finds.

To meet the requirements of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program, the participant agrees to the following:

A. EXCLUSION OF THE PATHOGEN

1. Utilize suppliers or nurseries that have been officially inspected by their state plant regulatory agency and found to be apparently free from boxwood blight or that hold a “Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program Compliance Agreement.”

2. Inspect incoming host plants and/or cuttings at the time of delivery. If the host material is symptomatic, contact VDACS, Office of Plant Industry Services at (804) 786-3515.
3. Newly received host plants or rooted cuttings shall be isolated by a minimum of 3 meters (approximately 10 feet) from existing host plants in the nursery for at least 30 days. Plants can be isolated by a physical barrier or by other isolation method approved by VDACS.
 - a. Keep newly received host plants obtained from different vendors separated.
 - b. The isolation area must have a surface, such as concrete or landscape fabric, that can be cleaned of plant debris. All plant debris must be removed on a weekly basis.
 - c. No fungicides active against *Cylindrocladium* sp. shall be applied during the 30 day isolation/holding period.
 - d. The isolation area for incoming host plants must be positioned to prevent water run-off into potting media and other host production areas.
4. Returns of host plants shall only be accepted into the isolation area and treated as newly received host plants (see 3. above). Do not allow returns that have been comingled with host plants from another source into the nursery.
5. Unload incoming vehicles delivering host plant material into the isolation area, or if a common loading dock must be used, clean up and proper disposal shall occur after unloading (see C1). Vehicles for pick-up must be free from host plants and debris before entering the host plant production area.

B. WATER MANAGEMENT

1. Avoid overhead watering when practical and conduct watering so as to allow leaves of host plants to dry before nightfall.
2. Monitor for host plant debris in water run-off. Minimize water run-off such that it does not run from one host plant production area into another.
3. Minimize standing water in host plant blocks.

C. SANITATION

1. Host plant production areas shall be inspected regularly for the accumulation of host plant debris. Minimize host plant debris by regular cleaning of the substrate and pot surfaces. Host plants or host plant debris shall not be used in compost.
2. Sanitize tools and equipment between blocks/lots of host plant material with an effective disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).

3. After every crop production cycle, remove all crop debris and disinfect propagation mist beds, cutting benches, machines, and tools, using an appropriately labeled disinfectant such as quaternary ammonium solution (prepared and maintained at labeled rates) or 5% sodium hypochlorite solution (commercial bleach with a minimum of 5.25% NaOCl).
4. Use new or sanitized pots/flats that have been thoroughly cleaned of soil and plant debris for host plant production. Do not reuse potting mix previously used in host plant production unless the used potting media has been sterilized.

D. INSPECTION

1. Inspect all host plants in the isolation area on a weekly basis and other host plants monthly throughout the growing season by trained personnel.
 - a. If boxwood blight symptoms are detected they must be reported immediately to the VDACS nursery inspector to have the disease identified.
 - b. No symptomatic host plants shall be sold until they have been examined and cleared by VDACS.
2. The nursery shall allow VDACS access to conduct inspections and, if necessary, collect samples to test for the presence of Boxwood Blight. VDACS inspections will be conducted at a minimum of four times per year.

E. TRAINING

1. The participant shall educate and train appropriate personnel on the following:
 - a. Recognizing basic signs and symptoms of Boxwood Blight.
 - b. Proper sanitation practices to meet the intent of this compliance agreement.
 - c. The stipulations of the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program compliance agreement.
2. VDACS, Office of Plant Industry Services can provide training and/or materials for appropriate personnel.

F. RECORD KEEPING/TRACEABILITY

1. Records must be maintained for a minimum of 12 months and shall be made available upon request for verification. Records of host plants shall include the following:
 - a. Incoming host plants including quantity and source(s)
 - b. Location of isolation area(s) for incoming host plants
 - c. Shipping records (dates, quantity, plants shipped, destinations)
 - d. Fungicide applications
 - e. Inspection Records
 - f. Personnel training (dates, attendees, subject matter, trainer)

2. The participant shall allow VDACS to audit all necessary records and protocols to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. Interviews of employees may also be conducted to ensure compliance with training requirements.

This Agreement becomes effective when signed and will remain in effect for one year unless rescinded for non-compliance, but may be revised as necessary. In the event of the detection of Boxwood Blight at this location, this agreement shall be voided or suspended until remedial action can be taken to the satisfaction of VDACS.

VDACS shall provide an official written statement that attests to the following: **“The nursery has been inspected and found to be apparently free of Boxwood Blight, *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*. The responsible party has agreed to the stipulations of a compliance agreement designed to prevent the introduction and minimize the risk of spreading Boxwood Blight.”**

I, _____ the undersigned, agree to handle, pack, process, and move host plants of boxwood blight in accordance with all applicable best management practices, nursery laws and regulations; use all permits and certificates in accordance with instructions; maintain and offer for inspection such records as may be required; and abide by the above listed stipulations. The affixing of the signatures below will validate this agreement.

_____ Name (Please Print)	_____ Date
_____ Signature	_____ Title
_____ Official	_____ Agreement Number
_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Effective Date	_____ Expiration Date